(a) whether the Government propose to open a technical education centre in Byana-Dholpur area of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this institution is likely to be established?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[English]

National Policy on Dev Dasi Pratha

3896. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a National Policy for the abolition of Dev Dasi Pratha for social upliftment of women;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, reasons therefor and the steps to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There does not seem to be a need for a National Policy on the subject since the problem is of a localised nature. However, the concerned States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra where Devdasi system was prevalent, have enacted laws for the prohibition of Devdasi System. The commercial aspect of this practice attracts provision of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 as amended in 1978 and in 1986. This supplements the substantive laws against kidnapping, sale, abduction and wrongful detention of women and girls.

Godavari University

3897. SHRI K.S. RAYADU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposal for setting up of a new Godavari University in Andhra Pradesh has been received; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Policy on Education - 1986, with modifications undertaken in 1992, states that, in view of the need to effect an all-round improvement in the institutions, it is proposed that, in the near future, the main emphasis will be on the consolidation of, and expansion of facilities in, the existing institutions.

[Translation]

Frauds in Army Medical Corps, Lucknow

3898. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the army officials have submitted a report to the Headquarters requesting a thorough investigation into the alleged fraud of Rs. 700 Crores in the Pay and Accounts Office of the Army Medical Corps, Lucknow;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is resentment among the jawans of the units regarding its functioning;

(d) the nature of work handled by this office and under whose control this office functions;

(e) whether the CBI had conducted a raid and caught the guilty officials red-handed for taking bribes during the last one year;

(f) if so, the action taken in this regard;

(g) whether the army is also carrying on investigation in the functioning of this office; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and the results achieved thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There have been some complaints regarding non-adjustment of dues and delays in final settlement of accounts in the Pay & Accounts Office, Army Medical Corps, Lucknow.

(d) The Pay & Accounts Office, Army Medical Corps, Lucknow maintains the accounts relating to the pay and allowances and Provident Fund and adjusts other miscellaneous allowances of JCOs/ORs belonging to the Army Medical Corps. It is a sub-office of the Defence Accounts Department under a Controller who is under the administrative control of Controller General of Defence Accounts.

(e) Yes, Sir. In three different raids, five individuals were apprehended.